

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

I. DISPOSITION OF THE CLAIMS

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 3 and 6-7 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-5, 8-9, 11-12, and 20 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-13, and 17-28 will be pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment.

No new matter has been added. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1, 3, and 6-7. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3, 6 and 7. The remaining claims have been amended to modify the claim dependencies based on deletion of claims 3 and 6-7.

II. OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OBLIVIATED BY AMENDMENT

The claims stand rejected as obvious over WO 02/13618 and EP 0 765 604 A.

Applicant traverses this ground of rejection and reserves the right to pursue the subject matter cancelled herein in a continuing application.

To further prosecution, however, Applicant has obviated the obviousness rejection by amendment.

The Office indicated that the subject matter of claims 4, 7-9, and 25-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all base and intervening claim limitations. Office Action, page 5, lines 7-9.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1, 3, and 6-7. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3, 6 and 7. Accordingly,

the claims now correspond to the subject matter indicated by the Office as allowable. The obviousness rejection has thus been obviated and should be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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